

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS OF JUNE 24TH, 1931.

The Board of Public Works met at the offices of the Board, Union Trust Building, Baltimore, on Wednesday, June 24th, 1931 at two o'clock P.M.

Present:

Albert C. Ritchie, Governor.  
Wm. S. Gordy, Jr., Comptroller.  
John M. Dennis, Treasurer.

At the request of the Board, Colonel Stuart S. Janney, Chairman of the Board of Welfare, appeared for the purpose of discussing with the Board and with the State Auditor the procedure to be followed in accounting for the funds appropriated in the General Construction Loan of 1929 and in the General Construction Loan of 1931 for the purpose of providing a new Penitentiary.

Colonel Janney explained that the plan of building the New Penitentiary calls for using as far as possible the labor of prisoners and that in doing this it was necessary to erect quarters in which to house the prisoners at the site of the New Penitentiary, to work the farm for the purpose of raising food stuffs and to incur other expenses, all of which he considered properly payable out of the money provided by the Constructions Loans. He stated that it was necessary to provide the Superintendent of Prisons, Mr. Donnell, with an automobile for the purpose of making trips to the site of the New Penitentiary, the employing of a director or warden to supervise the work and the prisoners engaged in construction work, to employ some clerical help to look after the records, etc., and that until the New Penitentiary was complete for the custodial care of prisoners, any money spent in the completion of the work would have to be considered a part of the building program and taken into account in the capital assets of the new Institution. It was also stated that it was proposed in the event there were any receipts from the sale of any products raised at the Institution, or from any other source while the work was in progress, that this money should be credited to the Construction Account, it being in the nature of a turnover. *Penal Farm*  
*Ref. for miles*

The Board of Public Works considered everything that was said by Colonel Janney in the matter, and with the State Auditor, agreed that the program outlined as to the expenditure of money provided for the New Prison was a proper one.

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Colonel Janney stated that he thought it of interest to the Board of Public Works to know that because prison labor is not being used on road work this year, the receipts of the Maryland House of Correction are going to be inadequate to the extent of about \$60,000.00 to take care of the operating expenses of that Institution to the end of the current fiscal year, and that no provision for this deficit is provided in the current Budget or in the Budget for the next two fiscal years. Colonel Janney stated that he supposed the only thing left for the Board of Welfare to do would be to borrow as much money as would be necessary to take care of the needs of the Institution.

The Board of Public Works realized the unfortunate situation as to the use of prison labor and agreed that whatever had to be done, would be necessary.

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The following letter addressed to the Board of Public Works by the State Game Warden was read and considered:

GAME DIVISION

June 24, 1931.

Board of Public Works,  
Honorable Albert C. Ritchie, Chairman,  
Annapolis, Maryland.

Gentlemen:-

Since the Board of Public Works, who authorizes the purchase of property for game refuges in Maryland, has never had the opportunity to see work being carried on by this Department along these lines, I extend to you gentlemen a cordial invitation to dine with me at the Montgomery County Game Refuge located near Gaithersburg, Maryland on any date which you gentlemen might select, however, as Mr. Gordy is in town only on Wednesday and Thursday of each week, I would appreciate your selecting one of those days thereby assuring that he would be present.

We could leave Baltimore around three or four P. M. arriving at the Montgomery County Game Refuge an hour and a half later, have dinner and I will assure you I can have you back in the City at any hour you might name after 8:30. I would appreciate the favor very much indeed, Mr. Chairman, if you will talk with the members of your Board and accept my invitation, which also includes the Secretary of the Board.

I believe the trip will be of benefit to you and I will appreciate your interest in becoming acquainted with some of the work which we are trying to do for the benefit of the public of this State

Sincerely trusting that you gentlemen will accept my invitation and with best wishes, I am,

Yours respectfully,

/s/ E. Lee LeCompte.

STATE GAME WARDEN.

ELL:Z

The Board unanimously decided to accept the invitation, and named Tuesday, July 7th, as the date.

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The Comptroller brought to the attention of the Board a report received from the State Auditor of an examination made of the accounts and records at St. Mary's Female Seminary, St. Mary's City, Maryland, in which it was stated that the accounts receivable at September 30th, 1930 of \$584.41 include \$186.34 found to be uncollectible. The Auditor recommended that the Board of Public Works authorize the charging off of these uncollectible accounts.

The Board unanimously concurred the recommendation of the State Auditor.

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The following letter of the State Industrial Accident Commission was read and considered:

STATE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT COMMISSION

June 16th, 1931

State Board of Public Works,  
Union Trust Building,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

Gentlemen:-

The Superintendent of the State Accident Fund has requested that we take up with you regarding an investment in approved securities for the use of the State Accident Fund in the amount of \$100,000.00 in accordance with Section 25 of the Workmen's Compensation Law.

Will you kindly make arrangements for this investment as promptly as possible.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Robert H. Carr.

CHAIRMAN.

NC-

The Comptroller stated that Mr. Dennis and himself were aware of the fact that the State Industrial Accident Commission wanted \$100,000.00 of cash in the State Accident Fund invested in securities, and were looking after the matter.

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The Secretary took up with the Board the question of securing for the Bank Commissioner addition/office space, which he not only needs very badly at this time, but the need for which will be imperative from and after October 1st, on which date he will employ additional Examiners as authorized by the Budget for the fiscal year 1932. The Commission's offices now occupy three rooms on the sixth floor of the Union Trust Building, known as numbers 606, 607 and 608, for which the Board of Public Works pays out of its appropriation for rent, \$2,035.00 per annum. The tenants in offices numbers 609, 610 and 611 will soon vacate those offices, and they have been offered to the Bank Commissioner at the same rental as has been paid by the old tenants, namely \$1,680.00 per annum.

The Board considered that it was very necessary for the Bank Commissioner to have this additional space and authorized that it be leased and payment be made out of the Board of Public Works Account.

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*mul.* The Board had presented to it for consideration a bill of Frederick A. Dolefield, City Register, to the State of Maryland, in the amount of \$1,200.00, for services rendered in the collection of State tax on City Loans for the years 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926.

The Board took no action in the matter.

The following letter from Mr. F. W. Besley, State Forester, was read and considered:

June 16, 1931.

TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS:

In a tax sale, to be held at Oakland, Garrett County, on Saturday morning next, I find that there are three tracts which join our present forest holdings in Garrett County, and which it is very desirable that we should acquire in rounding out our forest unit. One tract of seventy-three acres in the Savage State Forest district, bounded on three sides by the Savage River Forest, and also bordering the county road, and so located as to make suitable headquarters for this state forest. Approval for purchase at a price not to exceed \$3. per acre is requested.

Another tract of approximately 134 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres, adjoining the Ship-nish State Forest in the western part of Garrett County, at a price not to exceed \$3. per acre, is also respectfully authorized for purchase. This is in the Swallow Falls section where we have over 4,000 acres of state forest land, and is an interior holding needed to round out our boundaries.

The third tract, containing 839 acres, with the possibility of an additional tract adjoining it of 629 acres, being also offered for taxes, is located in the Backbone mountain section where we already have 6,000 acres of state forest land. This is needed to enlarge this unit. Authority is requested to purchase one or both of these tracts as they may be offered at a price not to exceed \$1. per acre.

Money is available for the purchase of this land in the Forest Reserve Fund. It is quite likely that these tracts can be purchased for less than the maximum limit that is set. You may be assured that they will be purchased under the most favorable terms.

I did not hear of this tax sale until today, hence it has not been possible to make my requests earlier. The first two tracts I know very thoroughly, the third one I know slightly, but I am having the District Forester check up closely on it. This is an emergency matter requiring prompt action, and I hope approval for purchase will be promptly given, so that we may take advantage of this opportunity.

Very truly yours,

/s/ F.W.Besley.  
STATE FORESTER.

FWB/w

The purchase of the land by the State Department of Forestry was authorized.

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The Comptroller brought to the attention of the Board, a recommendation contained in a report received from the State Auditor of the accounts and records of the State Industrial Accident Commission for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1930, that uncollectible accounts amounting to \$1,278.44 be charged from the books of the said Commission. A letter from the Commission asking that the Auditor's recommendation be approved is quoted below:

STATE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT COMMISSION

June 24th, 1931.

Board of Public Works,  
Union Trust Building,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

Gentlemen:-

In accordance with the request of the State Auditor, we ask that you please charge off the following uncollectible accounts now in receivership. These accounts are due for proportionate share of expenses of maintaining the State Industrial Accident Commission for calendar year, as given on the attached bills in accordance with the provisions of Section 27 of Article 101 of the Code of Public General Laws of Maryland.

Associated Employers Reciprocal Exchange-----\$73.99

Chicago, Ill.

Receiver:-----James W. Gullett

Manufacturers Liability Insurance Co.-----\$569.89

Jersey City, New Jersey.

Receivers:----Mark Townsend, Myron J. Brown, Edward I. Edwards and Ernest Heppenheimer.

Republic Casualty Co:-----\$634.56

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Receiver:-----Matthew W. Taggart.

Bills for the above accounts were filed with the receivers by us and we are attaching a copy of the letter received from the Insurance Commissioner of Pennsylvania recommending that our claim of Republic Casualty Co. be approved subject to the final authority of the court.

In view of the fact that these accounts are for assessment due on years 1923-1926-1927 respectively, the State Auditor is of the opinion that they should be charged off until such time as the receivership estate shall be distributed. Any dividends then received will be promptly forwarded to the comptroller.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Robert H. Carr.

CHAIRMAN.

After due consideration the Board authorized that the uncollectible accounts be charged off.

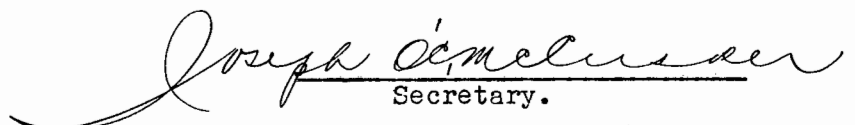
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The Board had before it for consideration a letter from Doctor E. P. Bledsoe, Superintendent of Springfield State Hospital, in which authority was requested that some heifers owned by that Institution be transferred to the New Penal Farm at Roxbury, Washington County, Maryland, without cost to that Institution because of the fact that there were no funds available for payment for this cattle, and because both Institutions belong to the State.

The Board approved of this being done and stated that credit should be taken by Springfield State Hospital in its records of the inventory value of the cattle transferred, and the new Penitentiary records should take up the same value on its books as an asset.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary.